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10 Counties Recognized for Audit Accountability

FY2021 Audit and Accountability Awards to Counties

SANTA FE, NM – New Mexico Counties and State Auditor’s Office selected Doña Ana, San Juan, Sandoval, Lea, Lincoln, McKinley, Roosevelt, Guadalupe, and Quay Counties as recipients for the annual Audit and Accountability Awards and Cibola County for most improved county. The awards were presented at the NMC Legislative Conference Thursday, January 19, 2023. The awards are given in recognition to large, mid-size, and small counties for outstanding work on their audits, submitting timely audits, and sustaining excellence with the highest audit opinions. An unmodified opinion is the best opinion that can be given and means that the financial statements are presented fairly by following generally accepted accounting principles.

A good audit reflects a county’s strong finance department, elected officials, and management.

The following counties received the FY2021 Audit & Accountability Awards:

Large County Award

Doña Ana County – Continues on their streak of overall audit achievement with an unmodified opinion and financial management excellence. This is the county’s fourth award since FY2011.

San Juan County – Continues their streak of overall audit achievement and financial management excellence with its sixth award since FY2012. The county also received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for an incredible 16 consecutive years for excellence in financial programming.

Sandoval County – This is Sandoval County’s second audit award with an unmodified opinion and financial management excellence.

Mid-Size County Award

Lea County – Continuing its tradition of excellent audits, Lea County received the FY2021 award for an unmodified opinion and zero repeat findings. This is the county’s third award since FY2011.

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Lincoln County – This is Lincoln County’s second audit award since FY2017. The county had an unmodified opinion with zero repeat findings.

McKinley County – This is the fourth award for McKinley County. The county continues to have clean audits with an unmodified opinion and zero findings.

Roosevelt County – Roosevelt County continues their audit award streak since FY2016 with an unmodified opinion and financial management excellence. This is the county’s fourth award.

Small County Award

Guadalupe County – Continues its audit excellence and received its sixth small county award since FY2016 with an unmodified opinion and zero repeat findings.

Quay County – Quay County received its fourth award since FY2012 with an unmodified opinion and zero repeat findings. The last time the county received the small county award was for FY2016.



Quay County employees (left to right): Commissioner Jerri Rush; Deputy Assessor James Kleinsasser; new state Auditor Joseph Maestas; Appraiser Rudy Blea; Manager Daniel Zamora; new Commissioner Brian Fortner; Assessor Janie Hoffman; former state Auditor Brian Colón. Not pictured: Quay County Finance Director Cheryl Simpson.

The following county received the FY2021 Most Improved Award in recognition of continued audit achievement and financial management excellence:

Most Improved County Award

Cibola County – Recognized for its path to financial management excellence, the county went from 14 findings in FY2020 to only 3 findings in Fy2021 with an unmodified opinion.